Under utilisation of funds for rural employment schemes

2382. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, after a review of the implementation process of rural employment schemes in various States, the Ministry has found that the pace of utilisation in 13 States is below average;

(b) if so, whether States have utilized only Rs. 30.57 crore, out of the Rs. 132.12 crore allotted so far;

(c) if so, which States have not utilized the funds; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) Review of implementation of rural employment schemes is a continuous process. The Ministry of Rural Development has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation and impact of the Programmes as per guidelines, including utilization of funds, through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee Meetings, Area Officer's Scheme and National Level Monitor and Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State/Districts Level, with greater involvement of Members of Parliament and other elected representatives.

National Old-age Pension Scheme

2383. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of old-age pensioners being benefited under the National Old-age Pension Scheme;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the number of beneficiaries under the Scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of new beneficiaries proposed to be added in the pension list of beneficiaries, State-wise; and

(d) by when, they are likely to be included?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The number of beneficiaries reported by the States/UTs under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) during 2005-06 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development had been administering the National Social Assistance Programme consisting of National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) and the National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) until the programme was transferred to the State Plan alongwith the Annapurna Scheme w.e.f. 2002-03. After the transfer of the schemes to the State Plan, the total combined allocation for the Schemes is decided by the Planning Commission. The State-wise allocation of ACA is made by the Ministry of Rural Development and Planning Commission and the funds are being released by the Ministry of Finance as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States. After the transfer of the schemes to the State Plan, the States/UTs have the requisite flexibility in the choice and implementation of the schemes.

The total combined allocation for NSAP [which includes National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)] as well as Annapurna has been increased from Rs. 1190.00 crores made in 2005-06 to Rs. 2800.54 crore in 2006-07. With this increased allocation the Sates will be able to disburse pension @Rs. 200 per month per beneficiaries w.e.f 1.4.2006 under NOAPS. the estimated number of beneficiaries likely to be covered under NOAPS, NFBS and Annapurna are 8482445, 459388 and 1696489 respectively. However, as per the guidelines the ACA provided to the States/UTs under NSAP and Annapurna chould be utilized by the States/UTs on Welfare Schemes of Old Age Pension, Family Benefit or free foodgrains to be aged by taking up one or two or all of the three or in any other combination in accordance with their own priorities and needs. The States are in the process of making inter-scheme allocation to absorb the funds allocated during 2006-07.

Statement

No. of beneficiaries reported by the States/UTs under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) during 2005-06.

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Beneficiaries reported NOAPS
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	466000
2.	Bihar	820193
3.	Chhattisgarh	183893
4.	Goa	3451
5.	Gujarat	62558
6.	Haryana	95800
7.	Himachal Pradesh	22700
8.	J & K	64708
9.	Jharkhand	166236
10.	Karnataka	488130
11	Kerala	131346
12.	Madhya Pradesh	683680
13	Maharashtra	659429
14.	Orissa	493381
15	Punjab	45853
16.	Rajasthan	144555
17.	Tamil Nadu	481028
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1259880
19	Uttaranchal	64246
20	West Bengal	451579
	Sub Total	6788646

North Eastern States

1	2	3
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	12923
22.	Assam	614513
23.	Manipur	43619
24.	Meghalaya	33776
25.	Mizoram	10525
26.	Nagaland	30051
27.	Sikkim	14869
28.	Tripura	83972
	Sub Total	844248
UTs		
29.	A & N Islands	528
30.	Chandigarh	4497
31.	D & N Haveli	1086
32.	Daman & Diu	372
33.	NCT Delhi	150000
34.	Lakshadweep	32
35.	Pondicherry	NR
	Sub Total	156515
	GRAND TOTAL	7789409

NR : Not reported